



Peter's Patch
Forest School - Day Care - After School Club

Toy Equipment Replacement Policy

Toys and play equipment should be a source of fun and learning for every child in the Peter's Patch day nursery. However, poorly designed toys, toys that are inappropriate for the child's age and ability, used incorrectly or in bad repair can lead to injury. Where toys are frequently shared between children, they may also become a source of infection.

All toys and equipment within the nursery must carry a BS, BSI or CE kite mark; see information on safety standards for toys and equipment. We will always check the age guidance instructions on packaging. If a toy is marked "Not suitable for children under 3 years", then it should not be given to children under this age because it contains parts that a child could choke on.

At Peter's Patch we will avoid toys that have:

- Sharp points, jagged edges or rough surfaces
- Small detachable or insecure parts, that could be swallowed or become lodged in the throat, nose or ears. Children can choke on latex balloons.
- Sharp spikes or pins that could be exposed if a child pulls the toy apart
- Long cords or strings. If the toy has a cord more than 12 inches long, cut it shorter



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- Caps, guns and other toys that produce very loud noises that could damage hearing.

If supervisors think that a toy is unsafe, they will remove it immediately from the nursery.

Supervisors are to check all toys and equipment on a daily basis, if found to be damaged they should be removed immediately and taken to the Manager for disposal or repair.

Supervisors must ensure that all toys and equipment are suitable for cleaning; if not then they must be discarded.

Supervisors are responsible for making sure dust is removed regularly from toys, equipment and all other surfaces. Dust harbours germs and can also induce asthma attacks.

Clean toys and equipment frequently, when visibly soiled, during an outbreak of illness and immediately upon contamination by bodily fluids, (i.e. blood, nasal and eye discharge, saliva, urine, vomit and faeces). Toy cleaning rotas are available in each room.



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Clean hard/plastic toys and equipment by washing them with water and a suitable detergent, followed by thorough rinsing and drying.

Disinfect hard/plastic toys and equipment that cannot be washed, rinsed and dried thoroughly using a chemical disinfectant. This process should also be applied to toys and equipment contaminated with bodily fluids listed above.

Launder dirty soft toys in a washing machine, following the manufacturer's washing instructions. Destroy any contaminated soft toys that cannot go into a washing machine.

Always wash hands thoroughly after handling contaminated toys and equipment. Ensure that all cleaning products are stored in suitable containers away from the access of children.

Store toys in a clean container or cupboard. Always wipe shelves down before replacing clean toys.

Empty water tray immediately after use. Children can drown in small amounts of rainwater collected in outdoor toys these must be stored away after use every evening or cleaned and dried before use.



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As with all water activities children must be closely supervised. Drain, clean with detergent and dry all materials or toys used for water play, after each use.

Cover all sandpits both indoors and outdoors to prevent contamination, and make sure the sand is sieved regularly for foreign objects. The sand pit must be emptied immediately and the sand disposed of appropriately if it becomes contaminated with bodily fluids. The sand pit should then be disinfected with a suitable sterilising solution.

Toys and equipment should be stored inside wherever possible as rain, snow and dew cause rust, rot and damage that increase the risk of accidents. Supervisors will carry out a thorough inspection of the outdoor toys and equipment before the start of each session.

Any problems need to be reported to the Manager as appropriate, before allowing the children access to the outdoor play area. Ensure that children wash their hands after water play, sand play, outdoor play or time in a ball pool.

Replace soft modelling materials and dough's regularly.
Discourage children from putting shared toys in their mouths.
Never allow children to take toys into the toilet area.

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